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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

## Letter dated 28 February 1999 from the representatives of Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the joint declaration of the Prime Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia concerning the bilateral relations between the two countries, which was adopted at Sofia on 22 February 1999 (see annex).

May we request your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 72, 76 and 93 of its fifty-third session, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir SOTIROV
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations

(Signed) Naste CALOVSKI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Macedonia
to the United Nations

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Annex

Joint declaration of the Prime Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia signed on 22 February 1999 at Sofia*

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia,

Proceeding from the common will to develop good-neighbourly relations between the two States,

Deeply convinced of the need to develop cooperation based on mutual respect, trust, understanding, good-neighbourliness and mutual respect for the interests of their countries and peoples,

Convinced of the need to strengthen security and peace, cooperation and confidence in south-eastern Europe,

Proceeding from the will of the two countries to integrate with the European and Euro-Atlantic structures,

Believing that constructive dialogue on all aspects of bilateral relations as well as on regional and international issues will contribute to the further development of relations between the two countries on the basis of equality,

Respecting the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the document of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as the democratic principles promoted by the acts of the Council of Europe,

1. Declare their readiness and common will to develop comprehensive relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia. These relations shall be developed in compliance with the basic principles of international law.

2. The two countries shall cooperate within the framework of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Partnership for Peace Initiative, the multinational peace forces in south-eastern Europe and other international organizations and fora.

3. The two countries shall contribute to the development of cooperation between the States of south-eastern Europe, in strengthening mutual understanding, peace and stability in the region and in implementing regional projects aimed at the creation of a united Europe.

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* Title as submitted by the representatives of Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

4. The two countries shall maintain contacts and shall hold meetings between representatives of State institutions at different levels for the development of friendly relations and cooperation. They shall promote contacts between non-governmental organizations and the citizens of the two countries.

5. Given their geographical proximity, the two countries shall aim at creating the necessary legal, economic, financial and trade conditions to ensure free movement of goods, services and capital. They shall encourage mutual investments and shall ensure their protection.

6. The two countries shall promote tourist exchanges, as well as the development of relevant forms of cooperation in the tourism sector.

7. The two countries shall expand and improve the transport links and communications between them, including those within the framework of regional infrastructure projects. They shall aim at simplifying customs and border formalities for the movement of passengers and goods between the two countries.

8. The two countries shall encourage active and unhindered cooperation in the spheres of culture, education, health, social care and sports.

9. The two countries shall promote the free distribution of information by encouraging and developing cooperation with respect to press, radio and television programmes through modern information technologies. They shall undertake to protect the copyright and intellectual rights of authors from both countries.

10. The two countries shall expand their cooperation with respect to legal and consular affairs, and especially on civil, penal and administrative issues, with the goal of simplifying the conditions for travels and visits by citizens of both countries, as well as of resolving their humanitarian and social problems.

11. The two countries shall not undertake, incite or support unfriendly activities against each other. Neither countries shall allow its territory to be used against the other country by organizations and groups whose goal is to carry out subversive, separatist or other activities which threaten peace and security of the other country. The two countries do not have territorial claims against each other and will not have such claims in the future.

The Republic of Macedonia declares that nothing in its constitution may or should be interpreted, now or ever, as a basis for interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria with the aim of protecting the status and the rights of persons who are not citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.

The two countries shall undertake effective measures for the prevention of hostile propaganda by institutions and agencies and shall not permit activities of private entities which incite violence, hatred or other similar activities which could harm the relations between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia.

Done at Sofia on 22 February 1999 in two original copies, each one in the official language of both countries, the Bulgarian language, in accordance with the constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Macedonian language, in accordance with the constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, each text being equally authentic.

For the Republic of Bulgaria
Ivan Kostov
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Macedonia
Ljubcho Georgievski
Prime Minister

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